



HOWARD COUNTY TOURISM & PROMOTION

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Howard County's Fun-for-FALL

25 local getaway ideas for friends and families this fall from Poe, foliage, ghosts, pumpkin chuckin', spooky Shakespeare, apple fritters & zip lines!

ELLICOTT CITY, MD (October 1, 2009) Howard County Tourism & Promotion welcomes the first day of October with its newest promotion *Howard County's Fun-for-FALL!* With everyone stretching their travel and entertainment dollars, we've gathered a list twenty-five fun-for-fall ideas for friends and families from Poe to foliage, ghosts, pumpkin chuckin', spooky Shakespeare, apple fritters & zip lines!. Howard County, an affluent bedroom community of Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, MD and is a perennial favorite on *Money* magazine's "Top Ten Best Places to Live in America." Those same community amenities that make Howard County such a wonderful place to live, make Howard County a wonderful place to visit, especially in the fall!

LEAF PEEPING & POE

1) Terrapin Adventure's Zip Lines

Leap and leaf peep and experience 2 G's of force on the Giant Swing. Enjoy the thrill of gliding through the fall foliage forest canopy on a Zip Line! Check awesome fall events like *Beer and Fear*, *Guys Night Out* and *Murder Mystery with an Adventurous Twist!*

Terrapin Adventures, Savage Mill, 8600 Foundry Street, Savage, MD 20763

info@terrapinadventures.com, 301.725.1313, www.terrapinadventures.com

2) Elkridge Furnace Inn: An Evening with Edgar Allan Poe

October 8, 2009, 7:00 pm. In honor of the death of Edgar Allan Poe (October 7), Chef Dan Wecker is offering a sensational six course Poe themed dinner, paired with wine. In between courses there will be dramatic readings of Poe's work including *The Tell-Tale Heart* and *The Cask of Amantillado*. Elkridge Furnace Inn, 5745 Furnace Ave., Elkridge, Maryland 21075, 410-379-9336, www.elkridgefurnaceinn.com

3) Rail-Trail's Fall Foliage Hike or Bike

Spectacular fall foliage awaits along a 20-mile rail-trail that follows a former Baltimore & Ohio Railroad line along the Patuxent River. Beginning at Savage Park, the rail-trail crosses ten bridges, including the 1902 Guilford Pratt Truss Bridge then through the

grounds of a quarry that operated until 1928. The rail-trail ends at Lake Elkhorn in Columbia, great for picnicking and boating.

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP/RAP_HoCoParksSavage.htm

FRAIRS, FOXES & FRITTERS

4) Blessing of Animals

Saturday, October 4, 2009, 2:00pm. The Franciscan Friars invite you to bring Fido, Fluffy, Polly and Fishy to the piazza in front of the Courtyard of the Shrine of St. Anthony for their Annual Blessing of Animals. The Friars ask that all pets be on a leash or in a cage and accompanied by their loving owners. 12290 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042, 410-531-2800, visit www.companionsofstanthony.org.

5) Howard County Iron Bridge Hounds at Sharp's at Waterford Farm

Saturday, October 10, 2009, Bring your binoculars to catch the spectacular view of lots of happy hounds, beautiful horses, and riders & the hunt master as the traditional fox chase rides the countryside! It is an event you won't forget! Stay awhile and hop aboard our free hayride to pick your very own pumpkin, make a scarecrow to sit in your front yard, and then go through the 7 acre corn maze. 4003 Jennings Chapel Road Brookeville, MD 20833, 410-489-2572, www.sharpfarm.com

6) Autumn's Best Apple Fritters & Cider at Larriland Farm

Pick this seasons best apples then treat yourself to Larriland's fresh, hot apple fritters & cider. Want more? Try this recipe at home: 3 to 4 large apples, peeled & sliced, 1 cup flour, 1T baking powder, 1/2T salt, 2 eggs, 1/2 cup milk, 1T melted fat. Combine flour, baking powder and salt. Stir in eggs, milk and fat. Mix lightly to form a heavy batter. Add apples, stir enough to coat slices. Drop by spoonfuls into hot, deep fat (375F) and fry for 2 - 3 minutes. Drain and sprinkle with powdered sugar. Serve hot! For more information, call 410-442-2605 or visit www.pickyourown.com.

HAUNTS & HALLOWEEN HOOTS

7) Ye Haunted History of Olde Ellicott City Ghost Tours I & II

Howard County Tourism & Promotion hosts guided tours through one of the most actively haunted towns on the east coast. Guides recount tales of recent paranormal events at many locations in the Ellicott City Historic District; so many in fact that two separate tours are offered, "Ye Haunted History of Olde Ellicott City" Ghost Tour Part I & II! Friday and Saturday, April through November at 8:30pm. \$10 for adults / \$8 for seniors, military & children 12 and under. Reservations strongly recommended, 410-313-1900/1-800-288-8747 or www.visithowardcounty.com

8) The Spirits of Ellicott City

Spirited Pubs, Taverns, Winecellars await you the second Thursday of every month at 8pm for a tasteful tour of town ghosts and their favorite haunts. Visit at least 4 of Ellicott City's haunted locales. At each stop you will have the option of purchasing a drink. Your final stop, The Wine Bin, offers 4 one ounce samples of wine at no cost. Tours last 2 hours. 21 and over only. \$20 per person, drinks and gratuities additional. Reservations strongly recommended, 410-313-1900/1-800-288-8747 or www.visithowardcounty.com

9) Julius Caesar in the Haunted Ruins

October 8 – November 1. Don't miss this unique production of Shakespeare's great play. The audience follows the action and actors around the famous ruins of the Patapsco Female Institute Historic Park in Ellicott City. Don't delay, last year's production of Macbeth sold out the entire run! Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm; Sundays at 6 pm. For tickets and information, call 1-866-811-4111 or visit www.chesapeakeshakespeare.com.

10) Sweeney Todd, The Musical at Toby's Dinner Theatre

September 5 - November 8. Stephen Sondheim's rare musical thriller is a chilling, suspenseful masterpiece. A villainous judge deports Sweeney Todd to Australia on false charges in order to have *Todd's* wife to himself. When he finally returns to London he is told that his wife poisoned herself and his daughter is now a young woman living with the judge. This is the story of how Todd gets his revenge against the judge who framed him and ravaged his young wife. Special pricing through October 15: only \$30 admissions for up to four guests! For show times or to make reservations, call 410-730-8311 or visit www.tobysdinnertheatre.com.

11) The Haunted Experience at Rockburn Branch Park or Not-so-Scary Hayride

Haunted Experience: October 16, 23, 30 from 7-10pm & 17, 24 from 6-10pm

Not-so-Scary Hayride: October 18 & 25 from 2-4pm

Howard County Recreation & Parks and the Elkridge Adult Athletic Association host this spooky hay ride through the ghostly trails at Rockburn Branch Park (Montgomery Rd entrance). The evening features haunting tales of ghosts and goblins and horror to tingle the spine! 7 yrs and up, \$10 at gate. Little ones may prefer a not-so-scary hay ride through the spooky trails at Rockburn Branch Park (Montgomery Rd entrance). Ages 2-7, \$4 at gate. For more information or to volunteer, call 410-313-4629 or visit www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP.

12) Howl-oween Spooktacular

October 31, 2-3:00pm. Bring the whole family to Glenwood Community Center for this festive occasion, featuring entertainment, games, food and prizes. Anyone brave enough is welcome! Advance registration required; children must be accompanied by an adult; \$3.00 for Glenwood Community Center Members & \$5.00 for Non-Members. For registration or additional information, call 410-313-4840 or visit www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP

13) Patapsco Valley State Park, Halloween Creature Feature

Oct. 30, 2009 7:00pm to 9:00pm at Avalon Area, Shelter 106. Join naturalists for an evening of scary stories & a close-up look at spooky animals from our Scales & Tales program. Get your Halloween weekend started with a crackling fire, hot cider & light refreshments. Cost \$6.00 per person; advance registration required. To register or for more information, call 410-461-5005 or visit www.patapscoheritagegreenway.org.

PUMPKINS AND MORE

14) Sharps Farm, A Day In The Life Of A Farmer

October 21. One of the most popular October educational programs offered. Included in the program is a farm class on beekeeping and farm crops. \$6.50 per person; registration required, call 410-489-2572 or visit www.sharpfarm.com/Calendar.html.

15) Larriland Farm, The Straw Maze & Boo Barn

Everyday in October. Built with over 1000 bales of straw, The Straw Maze is a delightful place to "get lost". The Boo Barn is filled with animated, not-too-scary ghosts and goblins; designed for children ages 4 – 9. Enjoy both of these activities for a few dollars or less. For more information, call 410-442-2605 or visit www.pickyourown.com.

16) Clarks Elloak Farm, Pumpkin Chucking Weekend

November 7 & 8 Have action-packed fun with pumpkins! Experience a specially-designed catapult that will launch your pumpkin across the farm. Work up an appetite and enjoy C.J.'s Pit Beef. B.Y.O.P. (bring your own pumpkin). Petting Farm admission of \$4.50 required. For more information, call 410-730-4049 or visit www.clarklandfarm.com.

17) The Howard County Conservancy, Fall Festival

October 3, 12 - 4 pm, Enjoy a working blacksmith shop, old-time craft demonstrations, children's activities, farm animals, historic tours, and live music. \$10 per car. For more information, call 410 - 465- 8877 or visit <http://www.hcconservancy.org>

18) The Shrine of St. Anthony, Annual Fall Arts Festival

Sundays in October from 1-5pm, Learn about the friars in the beauty of the setting as well as history and culture of artists from both the religious and the local community. Free. For more information, call 410-531-2800 or visit www.companionsofstanthony.org.

19) The Howard County Conservancy, Owls, Vultures and Hawks, Oh My!

Saturday, October 10, 10 am, Learn about fascinating, local avian species. Free Wonder Walk led by Steve Heacock., For more information, call 410 - 465- 8877 or visit <http://www.hcconservancy.org>

20) Patapsco Valley State Park Fun Hike!

October 15, 2009, 10:00AM to 11:30AM at the Avalon Area. Join a Volunteer Ranger for a 2-mile hike to large & small falls along a picturesque woodland trail. Be ready for a few moderate climbs by wearing sturdy shoes. Bring water too. Meet at parking lot in the Orange Grove Area across from Shelter 106 near the Swinging Bridge. Free but donations are welcome. Advance registration is required; to register or for more information, call 410-750-0674 or visit www.patapscoheritagegreenway.org.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

21) Choose Civility 2009 Symposium

October 8. Featuring Howard County Executive Ken Ulman, keynote speaker Jack Marshall, breakout sessions, and presentation of the inaugural Choose Civility Awards. 7:45am to 12:30pm at the APL Kossiakoff Center. \$10 suggested donation at the door. To register or for more information, visit www.choosecivility.org

22) Howard County General Hospital Wellness Center, Well-Being through Massage Techniques for Upper Body Massage; October 9 & November 13

Techniques for Lower Body Massage; October 23 & November 20

Learn to use massage to promote a healthier life and a sense of well-being. \$50 per

couple for one class or \$90 per couple for both classes. HCGH Wellness Center's new location at the Medical Pavilion. For more information or to register, call 410-740-7601, or visit www.hcgh.org.

YUMMY IN YOUR TUMMY

23) Belmont Manor, Dine & Discover Wine Dinner

November 7, 2009 An exceptional dining experience that satisfies both intellect and palate. Enjoy one-on-one conversation with a regional expert who shares with you, insider's knowledge on the wines of the evening. Then, be seated as Chef James Jennings tempts you with his delicious dinner selections that charm and delight even the most discriminating palate. \$55 to \$75 per person. For seating times and to make reservations call, 410-772-7300 or visit www.belmontconferencecenter.com.

24) Bistro Blanc Fall Wine Dinners

Chef Marc Dixon welcomes you to Bistro Blanc, a stylish oasis devoted to the culinary world's three most sensual indulgences: fine wines, exotic cheeses, and exquisite food. October 19 – dinner with guests from Rombaur Vineyards and November 16 – “Small Plates” with Champagne, Sparkling, & Dessert Wines, with guest Tim O'Hare – Certified Wine Educator. 3800 Ten Oaks Road, Glenelg, MD 21737, 410-489-7907, www.bistroblancmd.com

PLANT PINK

25) Fall Blossoms of Hope Residential Tree Sale

As Leaves Begin to Turn to Red Lighten Up and Think Pink! Plant a beautiful Blossoms of Hope Kwanzan cherry tree this fall and let next spring's blossoms beautify your home or business and help cancer patients. ONLY \$125 per tree! *Locally grown, \$50 tax deductible.* To order call 410-313-1900 or visit www.blossomsofhope.com

TOURISM...Having FUN is Serious Business!

Howard County Tourism & Promotion, Inc., a non-profit, membership-based organization is recognized and funded in part by Howard County Government and the Maryland Office of Tourism Development as the official Destination Marketing Organization for Howard County, Maryland. Howard County Tourism & Promotion's mission is to increase, develop and promote tourism in Howard County by featuring the county's unique sites, services, products and people by creating promotions like *Howard County's Fun-for-FALL: 25 local getaway ideas for friends and families this fall from Poe, foliage, ghosts, pumpkin chuckin', spooky Shakespeare, apple fritters & zip lines!* For more information call 410-313-1900 or online at www.VisitHowardCounty.com.

Tourism ...stats & facts

10,000 employed in County's Tourism industry
\$742M in visitor expenditures (transportation, lodging, dining, shopping, entertainment)
700,000 visitor stays (hotels, motels, B&Bs, educational & retreat centers, campgrounds)
20,000 visitors in Welcome Center (from 39 states, 18 countries, 3 territories)
\$17M in tax receipts reinvested to maintain County's citizens' quality of life

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